- Coverage of all food crops (cereals, millets & pulses), oilseeds and annual commercial/horticultural crops in respect of which past yield data is available for adequate number of years.
- Among the annual commercial/horticultural crops, eleven crops namely cotton, sugarcane, potato, chillies, ginger, onion, turmeric, Jute, tapioca annual banana and pineapple are presently covered.
- Basically all-risk insurance scheme covering all yield losses due to natural, non-preventable risks.
- Premium rates are 3.5% for bajra and oilseeds, and 2.5% for other Kharif crops; 1.5% for wheat and 2% for other rabi crops. In case the rates worked out on the basis of actuarial data are less than the prescribed premium rate, the lower rate will be applicable.
- In case of annua! commercial/horticultural crops, actuarial rates are charged.
- Small & marginal farmers are provided subsidy of 50% of the premium charged from them. The subsidy will be phased out over a period of 5 years on sunset basis.
- To implement NAIS at lower unit of insurance *i.e.* Gram Panchayat within three years.

MSP for wheat

2434. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to increase the Minimum Support Price for wheat to Rs. 700 per quintal; and

(b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Presently, the Government has no plan to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for wheat to Rs. 700 per quintal. The MSP of Rs. 650 per quintal of wheat has been fixed for the rabi crops of 2005-06 to be marketed in 2006-07.